

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**1. (Currently Amended)** An interconnection support for plate-like micro-components (1) constructed and arranged for receiving fluid material to carry out chemical reactions, the interconnection support having at least one support rail (2) on the interconnection support which is attached to a support plate (3) and which has an unobstructed insertion slot (4) defined by planar side walls (9 and 12) for the accommodation of at least a first insertion edge portion (5) of a plate-like microcomponent (1), wherein the edge portion (5) has substantially flush fluid connections (11) therein, the interconnection support having fluid line connections (~~10, 10a, 13~~) (10) opening within the insertion slot 4, the fluid line connections 10 being constructed and arranged to be connected to the associated flush fluid connections (~~14~~) (11) through at least one outside surface (1a, 1b) of the plate-like microcomponent (1) to transfer fluid materials to and from the plate-like microcomponent, the fluid line connections being provided in at least one of the two planar side walls (9, 12) of the insertion slot (4) of the support rail (2) whereby the unobstructed insertion slot (4) and flush fluid connections (11) facilitate sliding the first insertion edge portion (5) of the plate-like microcomponents (1) into the slot (4).

**2. (Currently Amended)** The interconnection support according to Claim 1, wherein the fluid connections of the at least one of the side walls (9) of the insertion slot (4) ~~has~~ comprises at least one threaded hole (10) therethrough for the accommodation of a threaded fluid coupling (10a) to couple a fluid line 10b to the hole 10 that is screwed against the associated outside surface (1a) of

the plate-like microcomponent (1) adjacent to the associated flush fluid connection ~~(14)~~ 11 in the microcomponent (1).

**3. (Previously Presented)** The interconnection support according to Claim 1, wherein, at a first end (4a) of the insertion slot (4), a spring (7) is arranged which acts in the longitudinal direction of the slot allowing the plate-like microcomponent (1) to be pressed against a centering stop (8) at a second end (4b) of the insertion slot (4).

**4. (Currently Amended)** The interconnection support according to Claim 2, ~~wherein the~~ further including electrical contact surfaces (13) ~~are~~ constructed and arranged to be brought into contact with associated electrical contacts (14) of the plate-like microcomponent (1), ~~are the~~ electrical contact being arranged between the ~~at least one threaded hole~~ holes (10) ~~at the other in an~~ opposed side wall ~~(12)~~ 9 of the insertion slot (4).

**5. (Currently Amended)** The interconnection support according to Claim 1, wherein the support rail (2) is connected to a connection rail (15) which extends perpendicular to the support plate (3) and has an insertion slot (16) for the accommodation of a second insertion edge (17) of the plate-like microcomponent (1), wherein line connections (13) for electrical lines (18) are connected to associated connections (25) in at least one outside surface (26) of the plate-like microcomponent (1) that are provided in at least one of two side walls defining the insertion slot (16) of the connection rail (15).

6. **(Currently Amended)** The interconnection support according to Claim 5, wherein the support rail (2) has more than one threaded hole (10) for the accommodation of more than one threaded fluid connection (10a), and wherein the connection rail (15) has electrical contact surfaces (13) thereon.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The interconnection support according to Claim 1, wherein a connection holder (19) which is separate from the support rail (2) has an accommodation slot (20) for an insertion edge (21) of the plate-like microcomponent (1) disposed opposite the first insertion edge, and wherein electrical contact surfaces (13), which are brought into contact with associated contacts of the plate-like microcomponent, are arranged in at least one side wall (20a) of the accommodation slot (20).

8. **(Previously Presented)** The interconnection support of Claim 1 wherein the plate-like microcomponents comprise plane-parallel plates superimposed on one another, the plane parallel plates having surface structures providing space for chemical reactions.

9. **(Currently Amended)** In combination, an interconnection support and at least one plate-like microcomponent, the plate-like microcomponent having plane-parallel plates superimposed on one another and defining surface structures providing space for chemical reactions; the combination comprising:

an interconnection support for the plate-like micro-components being constructed and arranged for receiving fluid material, the interconnection support having at least one support rail (2)

on the interconnection support which is attached to a support plate (3) and which has an unobstructed insertion slot (4) with planar walls (9 and 12) for the accommodation of at least a first insertion edge portion (5) of a plate-like microcomponent (1), wherein the edge portion has a substantially flush fluid connections (11) therein, the interconnection support having fluid line connections (~~10, 10a, 13~~) (10) opening within the unobstructed slot, for connection to associated substantially flush fluid connections (~~14~~) 11 through at least one outside surface (1a, 1b) of the plate-like microcomponent (1) to transmit fluid materials into and out of the plate-like microcomponent, the fluid line connections being provided in at least one of the two side walls (9, 12) of the insertion slot (4) of the support rail (2); and

at least one of the planar side walls (~~9~~) (9 and 12) of the insertion slot (4) having at least one threaded hole (10) therethrough for the accommodation of a threaded a fluid coupling (10a) to couple a fluid line (10b) to the hole 10 that is screwed against the associated outside surface (1a) of the plate-like microcomponent (1) to fluidly connect with the associated substantially flush fluid connection 11 in the microcomponent (1).

**10. (Previously Presented)** The combination according to Claim 10, wherein at a first end (4a) of the insertion slot (4), a spring (7) is arranged which acts in the longitudinal direction of the slot allowing the plate-like microcomponent (1) to be pressed against a centering stop (8) at a second end (4b) of the unobstructed insertion slot (4).

**11. (Currently Amended)** The combination according to Claim 11, ~~wherein the~~ further including electrical contact surfaces (13), constructed and arranged to be brought into contact with

associated electrical contacts (14) of the plate-like microcomponent (1), ~~are arranged~~ the electrical contacts being disposed between ~~the at least one threaded hole~~ holes (10) ~~at the other side wall (12)~~ in an opposed side wall 9 of the insertion slot (4).

**12. (Currently Amended)** The combination according to Claim 10, wherein the support rail (2) is connected to a connection rail (15) which extends perpendicular to the support plate (3) and has an insertion slot (16) for the accommodation of a second insertion edge (17) of the plate-like microcomponent (1), wherein line connections (13) for electrical lines (18) are connected to associated connections (25) in at least one outside surface (26) of the plate-like microcomponent (1) that are provided in at least one of two side walls defining the insertion slot (16) of the connection rail (15).

**13. (Currently Amended)** The combination according to Claim 12, wherein the support rail (2) has more than one threaded hole (10) for the accommodation of more than one screw connection (10a), and wherein the connection rail (15) has electrical contact surfaces (13) thereon.

**14. (Previously Presented)** The combination according to Claim 13, wherein a connection holder (19) which is separate from the support rail (2) has an accommodation slot (20) for an insertion edge (21) of the plate-like microcomponent (1) disposed opposite the first insertion edge, and wherein electrical contact surfaces (13), which are brought into contact with associated contacts of the plate-like microcomponent, are arranged in at least one side wall (20a) of the accommodation slot (20).